



# The HHFD Response Times

The official newsletter of the Howlett Hill Fire Department

Issue 2, Volume 3

June 9, 2003



## From the Chief's Office

Chief James Harris

Summer is finally here no snow or ice (maybe)

In case you haven't realized, the Howlett Hill Fire Dept. has really stepped up to the plate. We get out each and every time with only one activation. We send a crew that is capable of performing every task that is asked of them. The alarm pace will be pushing 300 by the end of the year. This says a lot for all of the personnel.

**Engine 94** is still running and we still do Tuesdays all day, however we are always looking for more bodies to assist. Camillus, Fairmount and Onondaga Hill are having their difficulties. I had mentioned it to the other Chief's that we would be more than happy to take anyone from their organizations on Tuesdays (we are running alarms). It is a big commitment and I would like to thank the two Captains (Doner and Gosson), FF Casey Mack, FF Chuck Planer, FF/EMT Bob Slivinski and FF Renee Dauenhauer for unselfishly giving of their time to make sure Engine 94 continues to run.

**Running order** - line officer's will be looking at changing the running order for structure fires. We will be changing the Engine positions around. We will let the membership know as soon as we finalize it.

**Policies** - as Chief, I've submitted policies to the board for review. The policies were adopted by the board at the May meeting. Policies will be printed and issued to all members at the July meeting. The policies implemented relate to: Alcohol, Squad 4, SCBA, Fit testing and Physicals.

**Chaplain** - Pastor Michael Delaney is the new Chaplain for the Howlett Hill Fire Dept. The State has a detailed list of responsibilities for Fire Dept. Chaplains. Michael and I are in the process of reviewing and digesting this pamphlet. Most of these duties will become policy of the Fire Dept. Michael comes from a long line of family fire fighters. He is thoroughly trained and after a few refreshers don't be surprised to see him stretching a line. Please keep in mind he is an ordained minister.

**Fire Station** - Construction has finally started again. Please try not to interfere with the contractors. Use some extra caution when responding to alarms as contractors have no idea when they take place. The fire fighter's responsibility to maintain the housekeeping in the Apparatus bays, SCBA room and the PPE room must continue. Please remember we divided the Fire Dept. up into four companies. These companies have assigned months for housekeeping responsibilities. Please pick up after yourself. Throw soda cans in the proper place and take the pizza boxes out. Good weather months are here please wash all vehicles outside. If we are getting low on cleaning supplies let me know and they will be replaced.

**Training** - I would like to thank the Line Officers for an excellent job. Our confidence level has been elevated by their commitment to quality training. A big well done job to Fred Isgar. He has taken it upon himself to work with the new fire fighters and with additional training on Sundays and Tuesdays. This is open to everyone that is in need of extra training or confidence building. For the last few weeks we have been refreshing our SCBA program. (continued on Page 3)

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### The HHFD Response Times

An informal newsletter for the Howlett Hill Fire Department members and their families and for the residents of the community we serve. The Times is published six times a year. Copies are available at the Howlett Hill Fire Station, or via email by request to: [fvalls@hhfd.org](mailto:fvalls@hhfd.org)

### Or on our new website:

[www.hhfd.org](http://www.hhfd.org)

Frank Valls, Editor

## **FEMA Grant application**

On April 11, 2003 Deputy Chief John Harris Jr. and Treasurer Lauren Legnetto spent several hours together applying for a FEMA grant on behalf of HHFD. This year's application process was aided by an interactive Internet website in which to apply online. As we all know, the real needs in HHFD are updated SCBA and PPE equipment. These (along with good training) are the cornerstones of our safety on the job. Our grant requested \$178,000 to replace 25 SCBA and replace 10 firefighter's PPE. Preliminary results of the application process are due in the near future. Let's keep our finger's crossed, and let's Thank John and Lauren for their efforts!!

## **Clark Construction fire**

Around 23:20 on May 20th, pagers toned out numerous firefighters to a "warehouse" fire at the Clark Construction Company on Smoral Rd. The building, located, in Taunton Fire District, had a head start and was fully engulfed when the first apparatus arrived on scene. Water distribution was at a premium due to hydrant issues. HHFD Engine 1 and Engine 3 responded to the scene as a Signal 99 was declared by Taunton Command. HHFD Squad 4 responded with additional manpower. All three HHFD Chiefs participated at the scene in support of this alarm. Tankers were brought in from Navarino and Mottville in reaction to the water situation which was corrected prior to having a need for a full tanker operation. **A full crew from Southwood Fire Dept. covered Howlett Hill's floor while we were on scene. We Thank Southwood for their support and their enthusiastic work ethic in helping us clean up after returning to the station, your help was greatly appreciated!**

**Pictures right:** HHFD Firefighter Chuck Lanning aims a line from HHFD Engine 1 at the scene. **Below:** The crew from HHFD Engine 1 lay a curtain of water to protect exposures from side 2 of the warehouse. Two trucks and an office/warehouse building of a heating/air conditioning firm were spared damage as fire did not spread to surrounding structures.



**Not pictured:** Crews from HHFD Engine 3 provided water supply operations to Onondaga Hill Rescue Pumper and to Onondaga Hill Truck 4 during the fire at the Clark Construction fire. The Engine 3 company also provided support to hose placement during the hydrant issue at the scene. HHFD laid in over 2,200 feet of hose while fighting this fire. The new Squad 4 got a good workout humping hose during cleanup. However, Jeb's trusty Dodge pickup still did a fair share of the hose retrieval work.

**From the Chief's Office (continued from page 1):** We will start another refresher in the Fall and we must all complete it with an evaluation.

I have spoken to Chief Mitson of the Syracuse Fire Dept. Chief Mitson is in charge of training the City fire fighters. He attended last month's HHFD board meeting and presented a proposal to myself and the Board of Directors. His proposal was to add a supplement to the Howlett Hill Training program. The board asked many questions and have adopted his program pending the dept's lawyer reviewing his contract and insurance certificate. If all is in place we may start in July. This supplemental training will be two nights a month which will run 7:00 to 9:30 PM. Currently, South Onondaga, Southwood, Sentinel Heights, Nedrow and Plainville fire depts are participating in his program. These groups are training Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. I urge the Line Officers to sit in on one of these training meetings soon. I know Captain Doner has approached South Onondaga. This supplemental training will meet all of our OSHA needs until the law is changed again.

Thank you for your continued commitment. Chief Harris

## **SCBA Training and Mask Confidence**

A solid Training program is a key element to assuring Firefighter safety. With that in mind, HHFD embarked on a rigorous series of SCBA / Mask Confidence training during April and May 2003. Monday night drills were spent either in the station or at the town Training Tower. All participants were given a dose of reality on their strengths and weaknesses. As Frank Valls indicated, "There are no "Do-Overs" out on the fire ground, this training allows me to apply what I learn in a controlled environment and repeat a step if needed". According to Captain Mike Gosson, "Reaction to this training evolution is very positive by the members. I'm excited that weekly turn-out is high and guys are sharing experiences with each other. This intense training brings the team together. We must practice training as if this was an actual alarm". Gosson also praises Fred Isgar for stepping up and conducting supplemental training classes on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Gosson continues, "Fred's really made a commitment to assure we have a consistent training program and by offering training multiple times a week, we've increased the number of members we can reach. It's made a difference in our responses to alarms." Captain Gosson remarks that the SCBA / Mask Confidence training will run again in the Fall. An SCBA Qualifying test will be scheduled in the future.



**"Reaction to this training evolution is very positive.... We must practice training as if this was an actual alarm."  
Capt. Mike Gosson**



**Pictures**  
clockwise  
upper left:  
Capt. Mike  
Gosson  
gives Kristel  
Kuppel



feedback upon her successful completion of a search at the Tower while another firefighter awaits his turn.

**Above:** Members listen to safety instructions prior to beginning a live fire evolution. **Right:** FF Joe Gratien and his partner emerge from the "Burn Room" at the Training Tower after successfully deploying a charged hose line through the structure. Optimizing our time at the Tower improves firefighter skill levels.

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Published by the membership of the Howlett Hill Fire Dept.

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**From the Captains:**

**Mike Gosson  
Paul Doner**

Training is a key element in running a successful Fire Department. Certain training is mandated by governing bodies and other training provides skills to enable us to perform our jobs **effectively, efficiently and safely.**

As you can see in the schedule, EMS training is our next focus area. This is appropriate at this time of year plus the average mix of alarms we run. We need to keep our focus on the importance of these classes and attendance is critical.

These are HHFD Certified classes.

The Capt's.

**Howlett Hill Fire Department Training and Drill Schedule June - July 2003**

Date	Event	Location	Time	Comments
Monday, June 02, 2003	Station Housekeeping Chores	HHFD	19:00	
Monday, June 09, 2003	HHFD Business Meeting	HHFD	19:00	
Thur-Sat, June 12-14	Hinsdale FD Field Days	Hinsdale	Check	1.5" Pushball Thurs, 2.5" Pushball Fri, Parade Sat.
Thur-Sat, June 12-14	NYS Chiefs Show	NYS Fair Grounds	Check	Sign up for tickets
Monday, June 16, 2003	Blood Borne Pathogens	HHFD	19:00	
Thur-Sat, June 19-21	Pompey Hill FD Field Days	Pompey Hill	Check	2.5" Pushball Thurs, 1.5" Pushball Fri, Parade Sat.
Monday, June 23, 2003	EMS	HHFD	19:00	
Wed-Sat, June 25-28	County Fireman's Field Days	Delphi Falls	Check times	1.5" Pushball Wed, 2.5" Pushball Thur, Races Fri, Parade Sat.
Monday, June 29, 2003	EMS	HHFD	19:00	
Monday, July 7, 2003	TBD-check Radio Room notice	HHFD	19:00	
Monday, July 14, 2003	HHFD Business Meeting	HHFD	19:00	
Thur-Sat, July 17-19	E. Syracuse FD Field Days	East Syracuse	Check	1.5" Pushball Thurs, 2.5" Pushball Fri, Parade Sat.
Monday, July 21, 2003	TBD-check Radio Room notice	HHFD	19:00	
Monday, July 28, 2003	TBD-check Radio Room notice	HHFD	19:00	

**Looking for that "Pot o' Gold"**



On March 22, 2003 HHFD assisted Marcellus and neighboring departments in a controlled burn. It was a cool yet clear day when a steady wind kicked up after the burn was initiated. It was an excellent opportunity to put the thermal imaging camera through the paces in live fire conditions.

As the structure was consumed by flame and smoke, HHFD Chaplain Mike Delaney captured this image of utter contrasts. Could Bob Slivinski be pondering where that pot of gold could be as he monitors progress? Or is that nozzleman a leprechaun?